

ADDITIONAL FEE:

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R E M A R K S

The Office Action issued October 11, 2006 has been received and its contents have been carefully considered.

Claims 41-45 and 50-55 stand withdrawn from further consideration in this application as being drawn to non-elected species. These claims have accordingly been canceled.

The objection to the drawings for failure to show the "spindle nut" is well taken. The "spindle nut" is actually shown as the "adjusting wheel" E. Claim 40 has been amended to change "spindle nut" to -- adjusting wheel --.

The specification has been amended on pages 7 and 8 to overcome the informalities kindly noted in numbered paragraph 4 on page 3 of the Office Action. It is believed that the two paragraphs which were amended are now clear and definite. In particular, the first wiper blade guide, which is formed by the two parallel webs D, is described as a "two-dimensional (2D) wiper guide.

Claims 36 and 48 have been amended to overcome the informalities noted by the Examiner.

Claim 1 has been extensively amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 35 and 39 and to otherwise render the language of this claim more clear and definite.

Claim 34 now recites a device for trimming windshield wiper blades which comprises:

- (a) a basic body A with a longitudinal passage N;
- (b) a first wiper blade guide D disposed adjacent the passage;
- (c) a cutting unit adjustably mounted in the basic body within the passage; and
- (d) means for adjusting the position of the cutting unit with respect to the first wiper blade guide.

The cutting unit includes a cutting blade as well as a second wiper blade guide, in proximity to the cutting blade, which is adapted to guide the lip of the wiper blade.

This structure results in a device which is simple to use, even for a non-experienced "lay person", and which may be used to trim any type of wiper blade.

None of the references, taken either individually or in combination, disclose or suggest the structure of applicants' claimed device.

Claims 34, 35, 37-39, 46 and 49 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Freeland. This rejection is respectfully traversed because Freeland fails to disclose a "windshield wiper reconditioning device" which is adjustable and may be used with any type of windshield wiper blade.

As may be seen in Fig. 1, Freeland's device includes a single guide 50 which is specifically shaped, in profile, to surround a specific type of windshield wiper blade. The large contact surfaces of this guide, formed by the flanks of the guide on both sides of the wiper blade, can result in binding or rubbing of the wiper blade, for example, if it is not completely clean, during the cutting operation. Such rubbing would result in vibration that would negatively affect the cutting and cause the windshield wiper blade, when trimmed, to perform poorly.

In order to remedy the fact that his device is designed for only one type of wiper blade, Freeland states, in Column 4, last paragraph:

" In another embodiment (not shown), a plurality of channels extend through the body of the conditioning device. Each channel is defined by a separate pair of opposing guide surfaces so that each channel has a distinct cross-sectional profile... The cross-sectional profiles are selected to receive different types of wiper blades. Thus, the reconditioning device may be a universal device able to accommodate different types of wiper blades with different cross-sectional shapes and sizes."

Thus, in order to accommodate different types of wiper blades, Freeland must provide additional channels, with a separate cutting blade for each, for each different wiper blade type.

The present invention, on the other hand, is operative to trim any type of wiper blade, with a straight, sharp-edged cut, without the possibility of vibration. This is accomplished by providing two separate wiper blade guides, which are adjustable with respect to each other. The first wiper guide retains an upper portion of the wiper blade while the second wiper guide, attached to the cutting device, retains the lower edge. The cutting device itself is adjustable in position with respect to the first wiper guide.

None of the other, secondary references cited and applied by the Examiner teaches or suggests this feature

which is now recited in applicants' claim 1. The patent to Plana is directed to an envelope opener having a "guide slot" and two opposing cutting disks with cutting edges extending into the slot. Since its purpose is to merely shave off an edge of an envelope, there is no necessity for any type of adjustment.

The patent to Nguyen discloses a "carpet trimmer" having a slot 20 to retain the edge of a carpet. The configuration of this device is completely different from that of the windshield wiper trimming device of the present invention. Applicants submit that a person skilled in the art would not normally turn to the "carpet trimming" art for assistance in designing a device for trimming windshield wiper blades.

The patent to Samuelsson, finally, discloses a squeegee blade trimmer that clamps the squeegee blade between to beams 11 and 13. With this device, the amount of rubber that is trimmed is entirely dependent upon the placement of the squeegee blade between the beams. As shown in Fig. 3, and described in Column 2, lines 39-42, a longitudinally extending stop 51 is provided to abut the bottom end of the

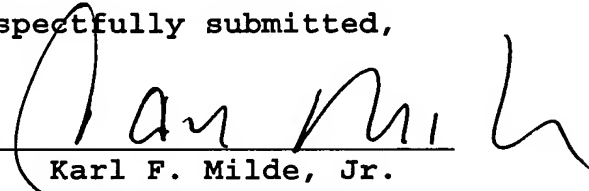
squeegee 33. Thus, like Freeland, this device is designed for trimming only one type of squeegee.

In summary, none of the references which were cited and applied by the Examiner disclose or suggest a trimming device which is capable of adjustment so that any type of windshield wiper blade may be accommodated and trimmed.

Since all of the formal issues raised by the Examiner have been resolved by this Amendment, and since claim 34, the only independent claim in this application, distinguishes patentably over all of the cited references for the reasons given above, this application is believed to be in condition for immediate allowance. A formal Notice of Allowance is accordingly respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

By

  
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on JANUARY 9, 2007

MILDE & HOFFBERG, LLP

By

  
Date JANUARY 9, 2007